

Regional Assistive Technology Team

1/14/2004

Background

- Technology changes at a very rapid rate.
- NCBL is placing a focus on students with disabilities.
- Many teachers are unaware of the scope of Assistive Technology, low tech—high tech.
- Many teachers are unaware of resources currently available.
- There is currently no systematic way to address issues in our region.
- Teachers don't know how to use what they have.
- Not enough money for A.T.
- Lack of awareness, time, training, support, extra help, and individual needs focus.
- Technology phobia needs more tech support.

Overall Purpose

- To increase knowledge and skills regarding Assistive Technology in the region for teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals and parents.
- To develop procedures and provide support for getting Assistive Technology to students.
- Some stuff doesn't work, no time to figure it out.

Purpose of this Session

- To decide if a Regional Team is needed and clarify its purpose by consensus.
- To identify activities for the team for the next 2 school years.
- To begin networking within the team (everyone meet someone new and exchange contact information).

Non-purpose of this Session

- To discuss individual students
- To focus on barriers

Ways to Increase AT Expertise in the Region

- Investigate alternative funding sources.
- Identify grant-writers, Spring 2005, invite Johna Rodgers.
- Explore and play with AT at Caveland.
- Visit other districts or bring showcase to AT Team.
- Set deadlines for AT Team.
- “Fire-up” AT Team to be a support for own districts.
- Provide “mini” presentations from members of AT Team.
- Teach each other and provide opportunities to meet.
- Become aware of available resources.
- Provide hands on experience- Terri Stice.
- Develop training videos.
- Prioritize needs of students.
- Provide “PD” within each district.
- “Train the Trainer” model.

Consultation Strategies for Providing AT Services to Students

- Develop an AT library for the district.
- Attend PD geared towards AT.
- Communicate about upcoming events.
- Create a list serve.
- Provide list serve for RATT.
- Develop a message board.
- Email information as we acquire it to all members ASAP.
- Inventory of district resources.
- Give students playtime to learn software and hardware.
- Make applicable AT devices available for home use.
- Use student mentors.
- Use own OTs.

Ways to Share AT Information Within the Region

- Use Caveland web site as a communication tool.
- Compile directory of different types of resources and websites that will match child's needs.
- Communicate with our administrators what we are doing in the AT Team.
- Hold meetings at different school districts.